

Missouri Youth Employment Trends

Mark C. White, Ph.D.

2022 Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership
Workshop

April 5th, 2022



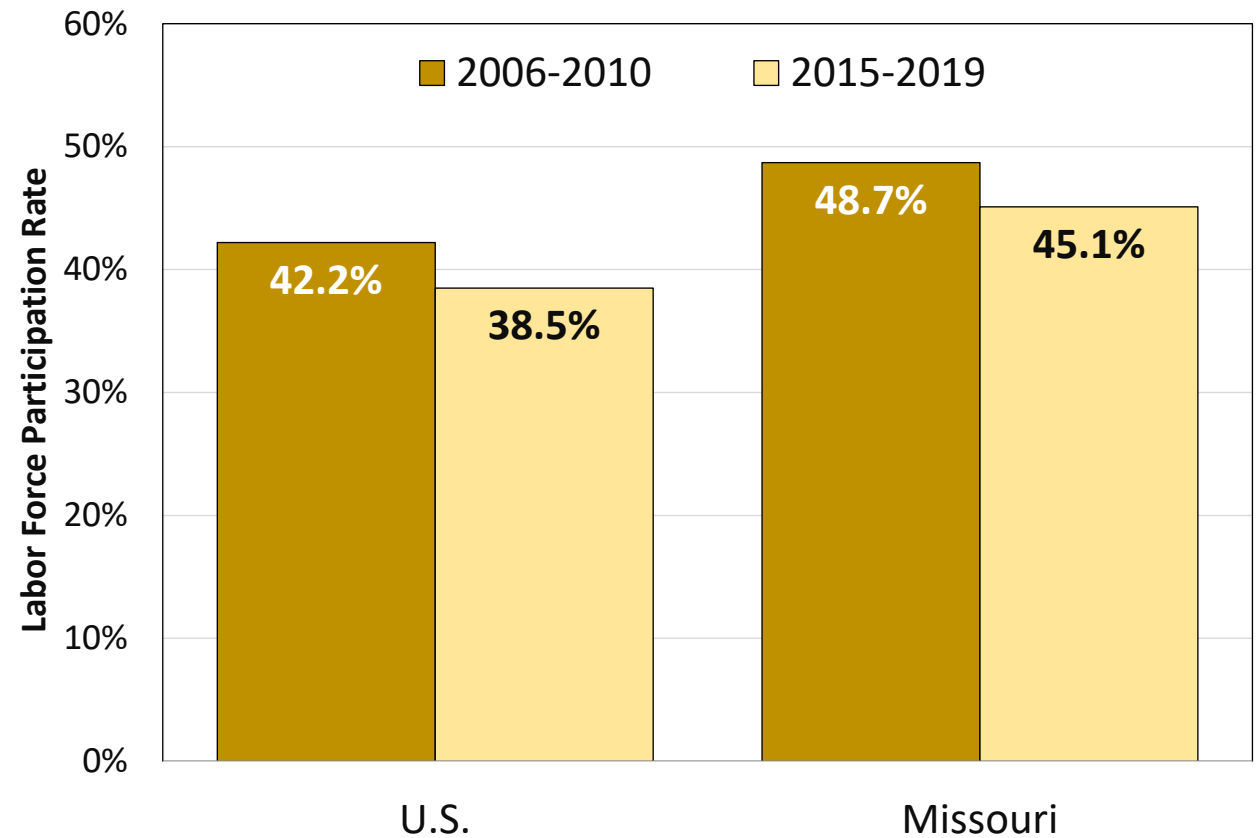
Missouri has an above average labor force participation rate for workers aged 16-19, but this rate has declined over the past decade.

- Its harder finding younger workers because:
 - Labor force participation among young people has declined both in the U.S. and in Missouri, and
 - There are simply fewer young people.
- The number of young people in Missouri's labor force has declined by 15% over the past decade.
 - There is now 25,000 fewer young people in the Missouri workforce than there was a decade ago.

Youth employment has many benefits:

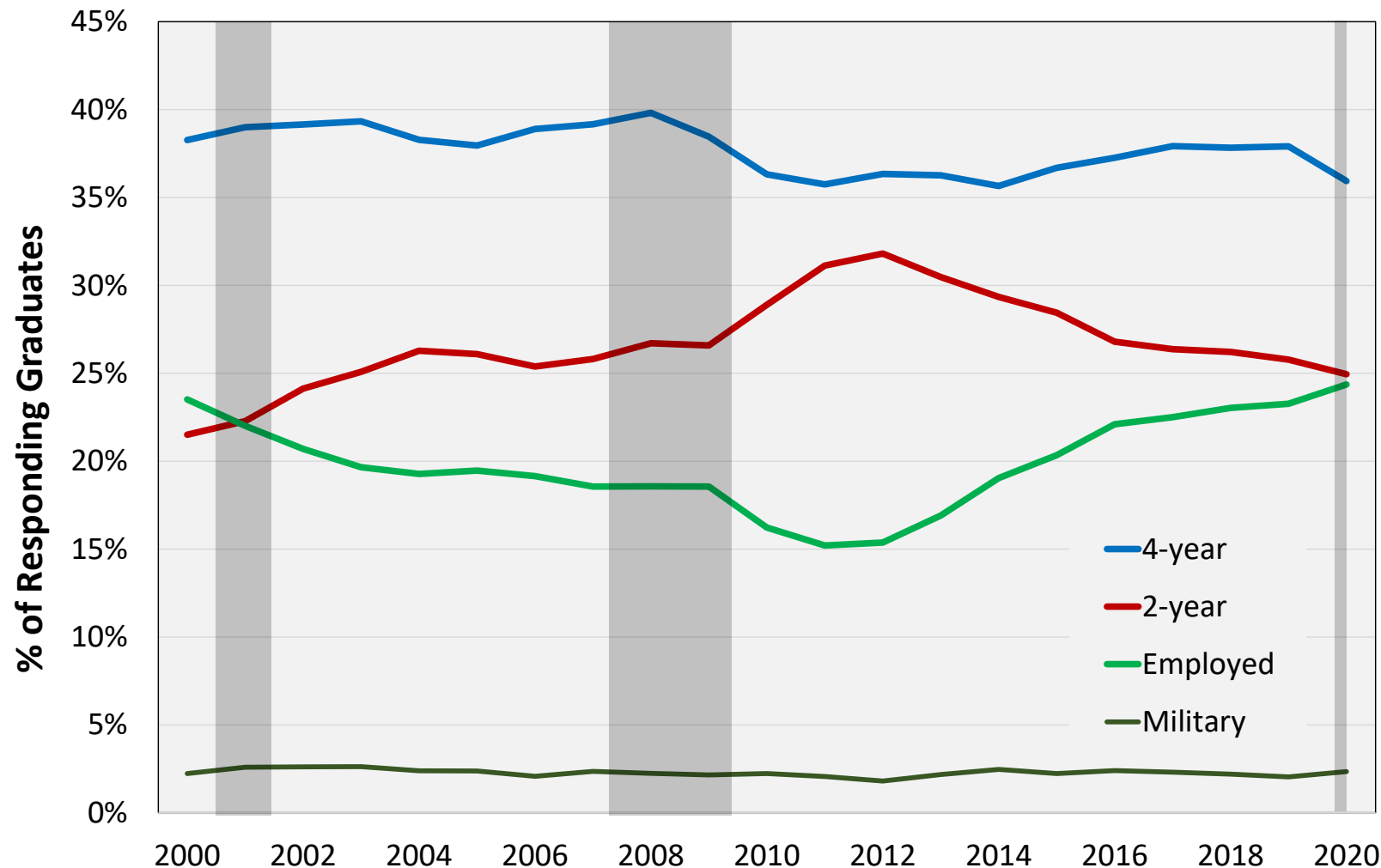
- Young people provide a source of labor for employers looking to fill part-time, low-wage, and often seasonal positions.
- It introduces young people to the world of work.
- It can allow young people to explore potential career options and then prepare themselves for those careers.

Youth (Ages 16-19) Labor Force Participation Rates



In 2020, almost 1 in 4 Missouri high school students entered the workforce upon graduating.

Post-graduation activities for Missouri High School graduates



- Interest in 2-year degrees increased after recessions.
- In stronger economies students are more likely to pursue work.

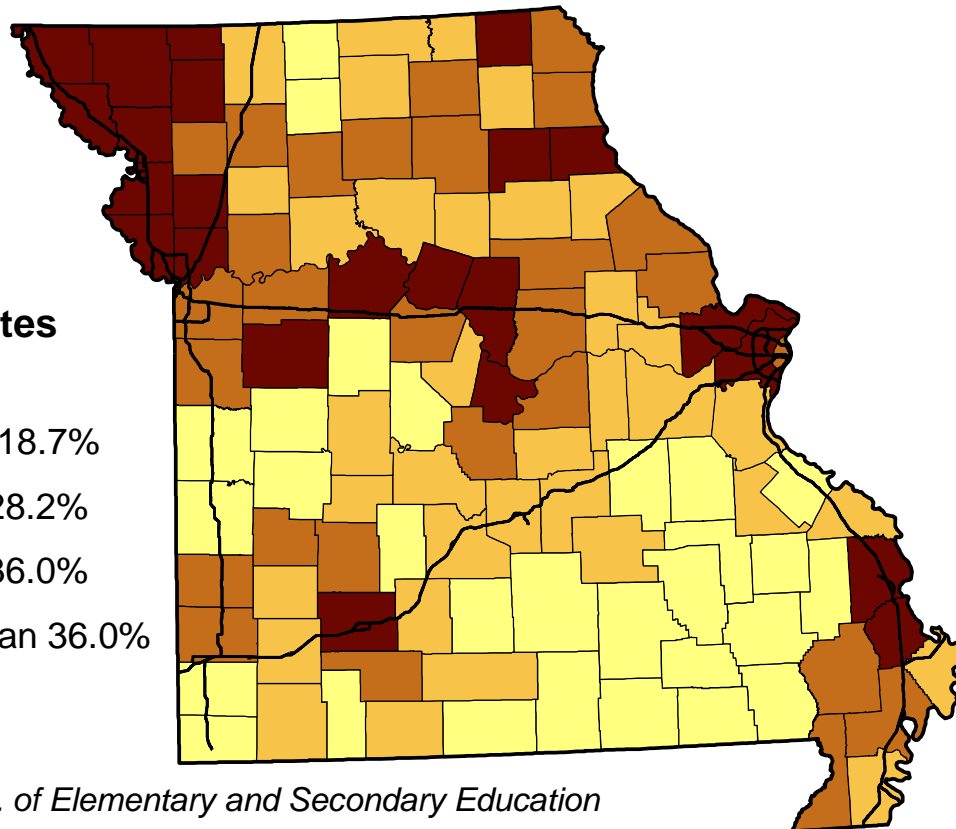
Counties with higher educational attainment levels, often had a larger share of graduates attending 4-year institutions.

2020 Graduates Entering 4-year Institutions

% Graduates (2020)

- Less than 18.7%
- 18.7% to 28.2%
- 28.3% to 36.0%
- Greater than 36.0%

Missouri: 36.0%



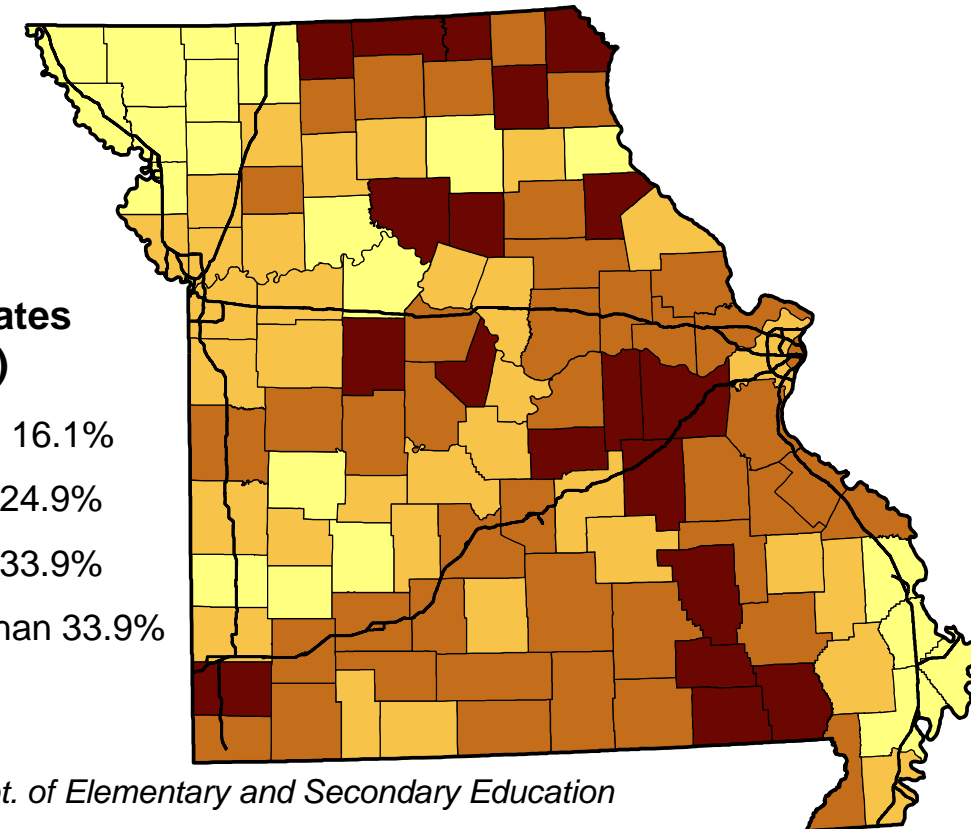
Source: MO Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

2020 Graduates Entering 2-year Institutions

% Graduates (2020)

- Less than 16.1%
- 16.1% to 24.9%
- 25.0% to 33.9%
- Greater than 33.9%

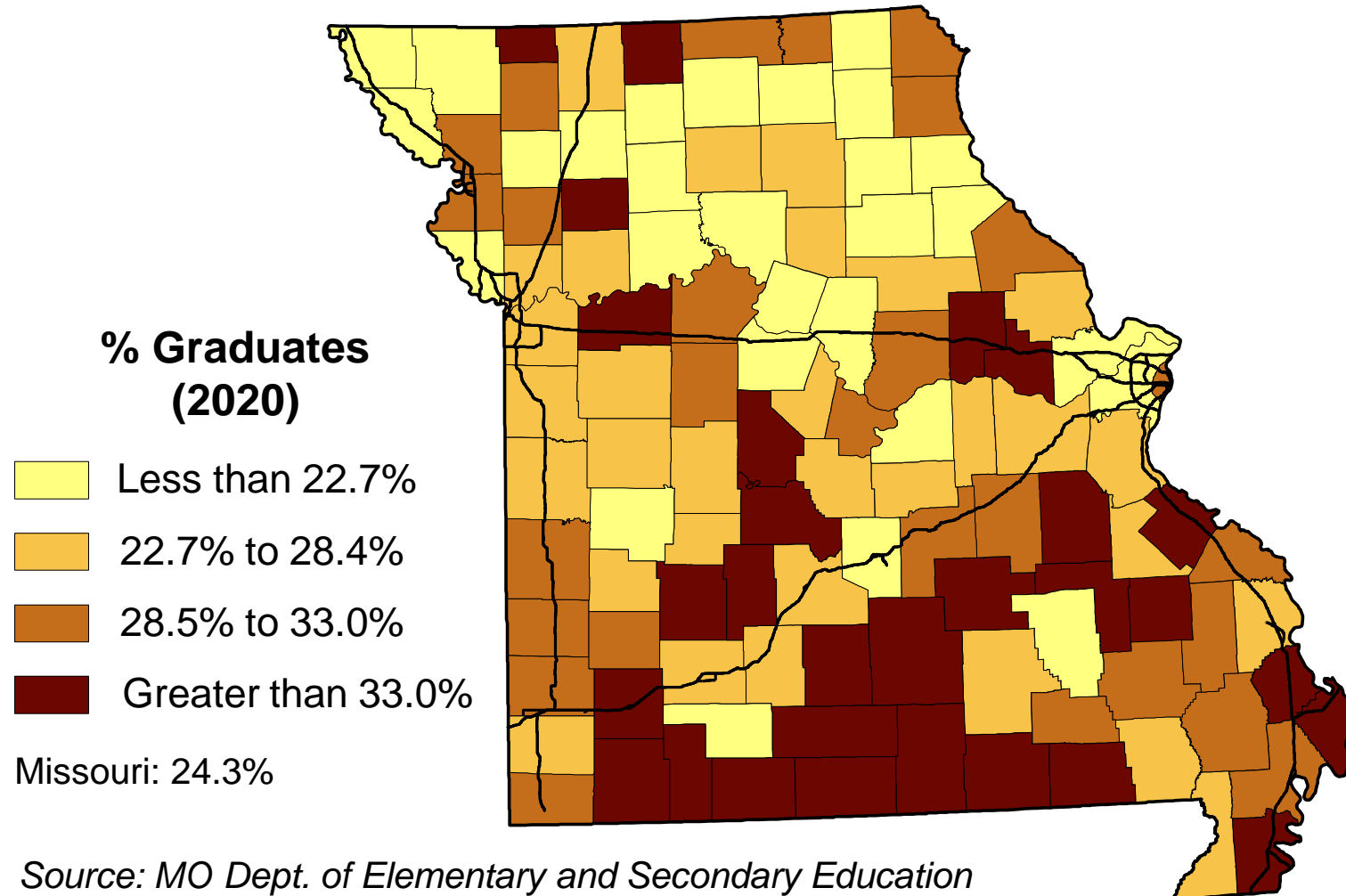
Missouri: 25.0%



Source: MO Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

Students graduating from schools in Southern MO were more likely to directly enter the workforce.

2020 Graduates Entering the Workforce

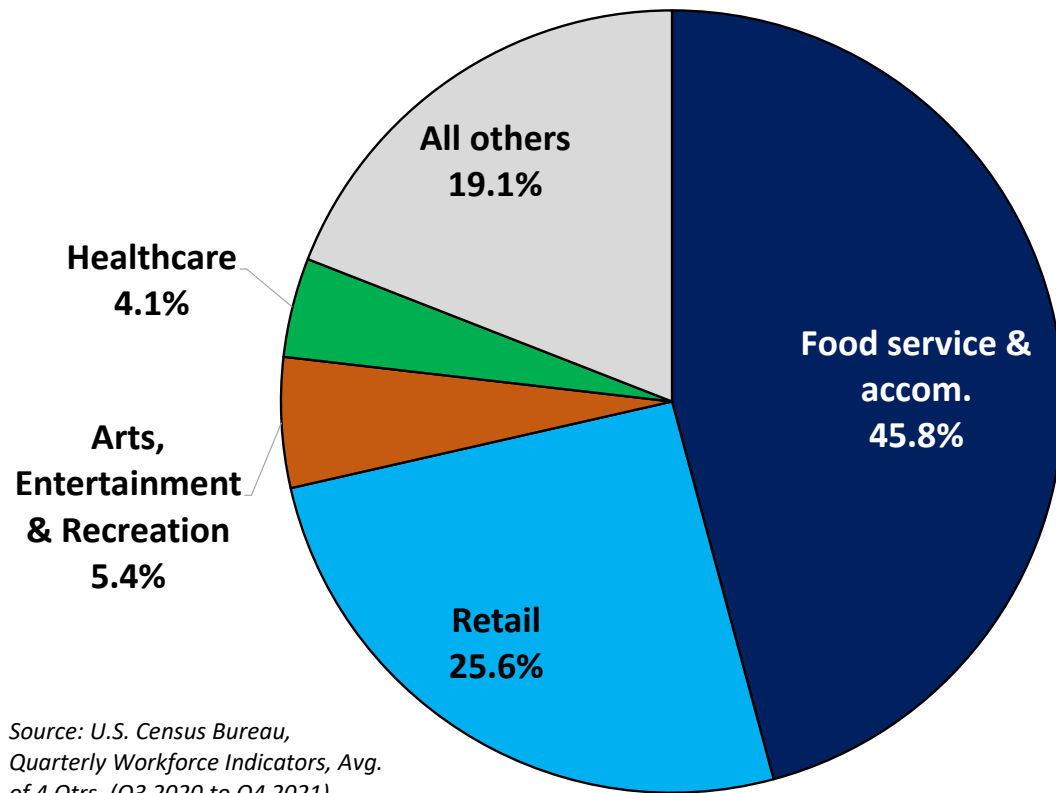


- Metro counties: 22.2%
- Nonmetro counties: 30.2%

Source: MO Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

There is a lot of youth employment found in sectors most impacted by the pandemic (e.g., retail, food service).

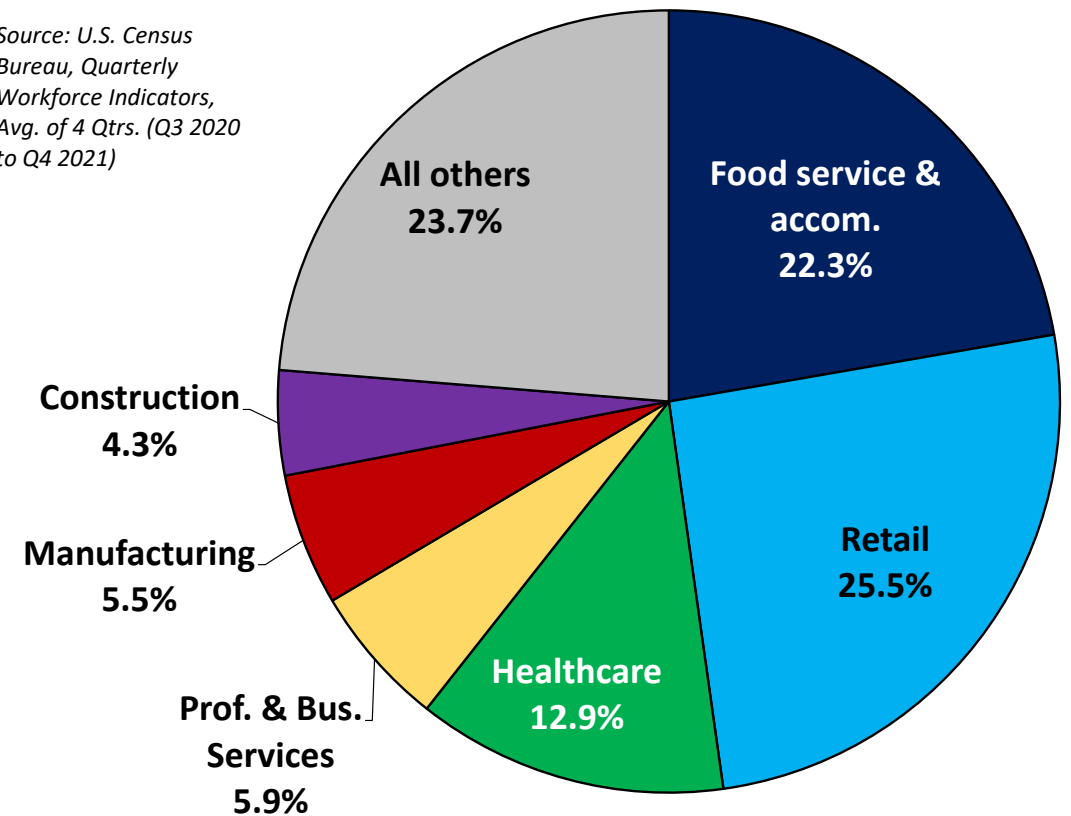
Youth (Age 14-18) Employment by Sector in Missouri



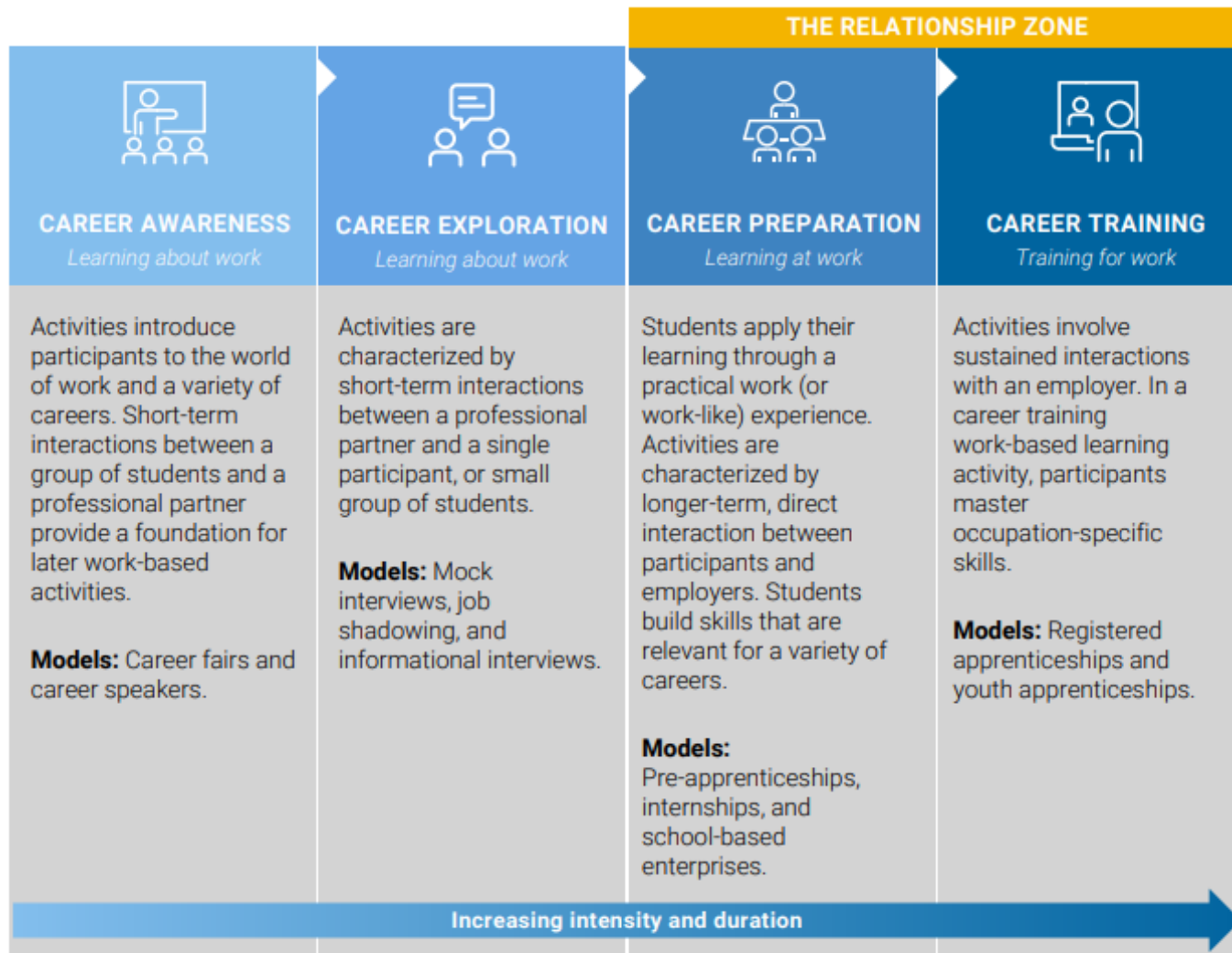
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators, Avg. of 4 Qtrs. (Q3 2020 to Q4 2021)

Youth (Age 19-21) Employment by Sector in Missouri

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators, Avg. of 4 Qtrs. (Q3 2020 to Q4 2021)



There are a variety of ways to engage young people



- Keys to high quality experiences:
 - Connected experiences
 - Meaningful tasks
 - Adult-youth relationships
 - Time for assessment or reflection
 - Supportive services
 - Compensation

Adapted from College & Career Academy Support Network, "Work-Based Learning Continuum," available at https://casn.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/resource_files/work_based_learning_continuum.pdf. Relationship Zone emphasis our own.

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201120_BrookingsMetro_Work-based-learning_Final_Report.pdf

Thank you. If you have questions, please contact me:

- Mark C. White, Ph.D.
 - Associate Extension Professor
 - Interim Director, Exceed
 - State Specialist, Labor and Workforce Development
 - E-Mail: whitemc@missouri.edu
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